

Bill's professional organizations include the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association, and the Association of Environmental Professionals.

His intergovernmental agency assignments included service on the Alameda County Housing Authority, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the East Bay Dischargers Authority, and the Regional Airport Planning Committee.

Bill Ward has left an indelible mark on the city of Hayward and beyond. On July 10, 2008, there will be a farewell celebration to thank Council Member Bill Ward for his dedicated public service. I join in applauding him for a job well done and wish him well in his retirement.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PETER H. KEHOE

#### HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Peter H. Kehoe, who this Saturday will become the 87th president of the American Optometric Association (AOA).

For many years, Dr. Kehoe has been a leader in his profession at the State, regional and national levels. He is a past president of the Illinois Optometric Association and the West Central Illinois Optometric Society. In 2001, the State association named him Illinois' "Optometrist of the Year."

Dr. Kehoe is a graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry and served on its Alumni Council Board of Directors. A Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, he is in private practice in my hometown of Galesburg, IL, and is a past president of the Galesburg Lions Club.

Doctors of optometry are the Nation's largest eye care providers, serving patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country. The American Optometric Association is the professional society for optometrists nationwide and has more than 34,000 members. Dr. Kehoe will lead the association along its mission to improve eye and vision care in the United States.

Dr. Peter H. Kehoe has built a renowned record of service and leadership in his profession and in his community. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the AOA. The 17th District of Illinois is proud to have Dr. Kehoe as a constituent and I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement and wishing him good luck.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 440, H. Res. 1051—Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### CONGRATULATING THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America, the leading training program for students seeking instruction in the personal development of leadership and character. Their training program gives students the necessary tools to lead the next generation of young Americans in the traditions, principles, and wisdom imparted to us by our Founding Fathers. The quality of this training assures me of America's bright future as the leader of the world.

The Leadership Training Institute of America is a cultural think tank providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization encourages youth to apply and excel in leadership and critical thinking skills, study world view conflicts and strategies, network with outstanding leaders, and pursue careers in influential sectors of society.

The Leadership Training Institute of America trains and equips young men and women to be leaders with high standards of personal morality and integrity. The participants are exposed to the major philosophies, views, and issues of our world today and are encouraged to become leaders with convictions built on scientific knowledge, historical record, and Biblical wisdom.

Our Nation is in great need of young men and women of character to lead in every arena of our society.

So, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to commend the vision and accomplishments of the Leadership Training Institute of America. I salute the dedicated staff of this outstanding organization and encourage its increased influence among our Nation's youth.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MESSAGE HOUR

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand here tonight on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and we discuss the current energy crisis we are facing and the rising gas prices that continue to take a devastating toll on Americans. As we head into the summer months, the Congressional Black Caucus felt it's important to shine a light on this growing problem. More importantly, we wanted the American public to know that the CBC is taking important steps to combat these issues through our CBC Energy Task Force.

I along with the CBC have been working hard to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down record gas prices, and launch a cleaner, smarter energy future for America that lowers costs and creates hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

In an effort to combat soaring gas prices, which are currently hovering around \$4.00 a

gallon, I joined with a number of my colleagues in supporting legislation to temporarily suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, SPR, until the end of the year. Filling of the SPR takes 70,000 barrels of oil off the market each day and a temporary suspension could reduce gas prices from 5 to 24 cents a gallon, which would be a critical first step for America's families, businesses, and the economy.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is roughly 97 percent full—the highest level ever—with enough oil to meet our national security needs. Currently, we have more in SPR, than we did in 2006 (702 million barrels vs. 688 million in 2006) and the inventory exceeds our International Energy Program commitment to maintain at least 90 days of oil stocks in reserve including private and public stocks.

The SPR has been tapped or suspended before by President Bush, President Clinton, and the first President Bush. In 2000, after such action, the price of oil dropped down by one-third—from \$30 to \$20 per barrel.

In addition to this initiative, I have and continue to support legislative action on gas prices including: holding OPEC, controlled entities and oil companies accountable for oil price fixing, cracking down on oil price gouging and repealing subsidies for profit-rich "Big Oil" companies so we can invest in a renewable energy for the future.

Additionally, the CBC has been working diligently on the issue of climate control. We recognize the importance of protecting our environment by transitioning from traditional energy sources, such as coal and petroleum, to clean sources, such as bio-fuel, wind, and solar energy. I am a strong supporter of putting more resources into creating alternative energy sources. When we invest in these alternative energy sources it also benefits our increasingly fragile environment.

Additionally, the new energy sources will create much needed green jobs. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, Ohio stands to gain approximately 7,360 new jobs from renewable energy development. These jobs will be beneficial to both our economy and our environment.

I thank Representative TOWNS and the entire CBC Energy Task Force for their leadership on this issue.

#### HONORING MONSIGNOR JOSEPH MURPHY

#### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who has faithfully served the people of Staten Island for many years, Monsignor Joseph Murphy.

Ordained a priest in 1954, Monsignor Murphy then completed three years of graduate work at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. After his completion of studies, he served as a Parochial Vicar at Saint Joseph's Parish in Croton Falls, New York from 1957–1959. Following that, he was assigned to the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of New York from 1959 to 1985, and was the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York from 1968 to 1985. Finally, in 1985 he